

# Viewpoint

magazine

**A Publication of Cottey College:**  
For Women, By Women, About Women

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# Leading the Way

Leadership Essential, Experience Guaranteed, Learning Everywhere, Environment Ideal, and Ambitions Realized.

[www.cottey.edu](http://www.cottey.edu)

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Steve,  
Another great Viewpoint. The topic was so appropriate for what is happening on the campus of Cottey. It is wonderful that you captured the staff and faculty that are a huge part of the change. Thank you for the talents that you share with the Cottey community.  
Jan Hansen  
Board of Trustees

Dear Steve,  
I am a 1949 grad and continue to love Cottey. Just a note to tell you how great the new editions of the Viewpoint are. The last one about change is wonderful and I share much of it with my chapter. Thought you might be interested in Chapman University President Jim Doti's

message in the Register yesterday. [November 18, 2014] Chapman is my very favorite university in California. Jim Doti is also a favorite. Cottey is on a good track as is Chapman.

Love the new Viewpoint and am happy to support the College enabling me to continue to receive it. Thank you,  
Sharon (Langohr) Sarpa

I like the new Viewpoint. I like the size, paper, and the separation of births, marriages, and people in the back. Keep up the good work! It looks slick.  
Kris Korb

Just wanted to say that the new Viewpoint looks really great—very impressive! (And hopefully all the talk about change

as a good thing will alleviate some anxiety in alumnae!)

Dr. Julie Tietz

Hi Steve,  
Just wanted to let you know that I enjoyed your message from the editor, "everything changes." My, it is amazing how much things have changed in the past few years. I did not realize that Dr. Rogers had announced her retirement. What are we going to do without those awesome red glasses!  
Take care my friend,  
Ann Romagosa, TX

Steve,  
I received my issue of the Viewpoint at home tonight and had time to leisurely read the magazine. I want to compliment you on your

writing! It was an enjoyable experience turning each page anticipating the next article. You are truly a gifted writer! Cottey is fortunate to have a person of your talents.  
Carla Farmer

Hi, Steve,  
I wanted to tell you how thrilled I was with the latest Viewpoint. I spent hours devouring it from cover to cover and have highlighted it in my Class Agent's Letter to my class.  
Thanks and congratulations on a superb publication - each issue keeps getting better and better!  
Claire Detlefs  
Class of 1948

## A Message from the EDITOR

### What Makes a Leader?

When people are asked to name a leader, they often mention politicians. When asked to think of women leaders, the tendency is to name women such as Margaret Thatcher, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, or Hillary Clinton (while forgetting Indira Gandhi, Golda Meir, Corazon Aquino, Benazir Bhutto, and others). That limited vision of what it means to lead also overlooks too many women who are leaders, just not in the political arena, such as Jane Addams, Marie Curie, and Mother Teresa. Although the word "leading" often implies someone guiding a group of other people, it can also

refer to leading an industry into new areas, or shepherding groundbreaking ideas into public consciousness.

This issue of the *Viewpoint* focuses on women who are "leading the way." That covers the obvious example of Dr. Judy Rogers, the President of the College; to Janet Brown '71, who became an attorney when that was truly a unique choice for a woman; to Erin Polgreen '02, who is doing groundbreaking work in contemporary journalism. This issue also features a couple of current students who have been campus leaders as well. Our faculty feature will highlight a few women leaders

that Dr. Trisha Stubblefield believes are worth studying.

However you choose to define "leading the way," the one thing I can say with certainty is that Cottey women are doing it, and doing it very well. I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Viewpoint* and take pride in the accomplishments of these notable women.

As always you are encouraged to write me at [sreed@cottey.edu](mailto:sreed@cottey.edu).

Sincerely,

**Steve Reed, editor**







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### On the cover:

Cottey women have been leading the way and taking charge for generations. This issue features several women who not only believe they can do it, they did it!

## Viewpoint Magazine: Good as Gold!

The Office of Public Information is pleased to announce that the *Viewpoint*, the Cottey College magazine, received a gold award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VI in the area of magazine publishing improvement. CASE District VI encompasses eight states (Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota) and over 400 institutions.

Many people contributed to the success of the *Viewpoint* in its transition to a magazine. Among those are the members of the advisory group which includes editor Steve Reed, Judyth

Wier, Kristine Fulton, Tracy Hass Cordova, Margaret Haverstic, Dr. Cathryn Pridal, Dr. Kathy Pivak, Dr. Mari Anne Phillips, Nancy Kerbs, Rachel Painter, and Miranda Wheatley Kassner.

A special thank you to Dr. Judy Rogers who invested in the redesign of the publication by allocating funds to hire a professional designer for the first issue two years ago.

The *Viewpoint* consistently receives rave reviews from its readership, and now can add a CASE gold award to those accolades. You can view past issues of the *Viewpoint* at <http://www.cottey.edu/viewpoint-home/archives>.



## Dr. Judy Rogers Says Farewell

### What I Have Learned

The past ten years have been years of discovery for me. I discovered Cottey College, a mission-driven College dedicated to the education of women. I not only met hundreds of students who achieved their degrees and went away from Cottey to continue to learn and to lead, but I learned with them, year after year. My interest in women's education led to a passion to advance women into leadership positions and roles of influence.

I discovered the P.E.O. Sisterhood, and saw how this significant organization could work closely with Cottey for mutual benefit. I cannot recall how many state conventions I attended, but I do recall the warm welcome I received in each state and

the common purpose we shared in supporting women. The *Defining Moment* Campaign allowed me to meet even more sisters across the United States and Canada. This relationship will endure.

Finally, I discovered that elusive term "the Cottey experience." Year after year, peeling away layers each year, I came to understand what alumnae know when they have attended Cottey. You cannot understand the Cottey experience fully without living it. I ask that each graduate of this College continue to support the Cottey mission to make it possible for other women to experience the gift of Cottey.

**Judy R. Rogers**

## Congratulations and Thank You From the Board of Trustees



**Dr. Judy Rogers and the 2014-15 Board of Trustees**

Dr. Judy Rogers came to Cottey 10 years ago with a vision; and the remarkable accomplishments during her tenure are a testament to that vision.

Her amazing ability to inspire – at all levels – staff, faculty, volunteers, and most importantly, students, has impacted all of us.

Dr. Rogers' passion for developing leadership potential in young women is a primary focus of her presidency. Her impact on the lives of Cottey students, both now and future generations, is an outstanding legacy. Cottey has emerged onto the national and international stage as an educational force, providing exceptional leadership development opportunities. And this is due to the vi-

sion of this legendary woman.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees with Dr. Rogers.

**Kathy Leffler**

It has been a joy to observe the excitement and enthusiasm that Dr. Rogers brings to her position as President of Cottey College. She is a visionary, looking

forward with true passion to challenges and changes that form what Cottey is and will become. She leaves a legacy that will be recognized and honored in future years.

**Jan Hansen**

Two words come to mind when one thinks of Dr. Rogers, vision and energy. She has had the vision to make the change from Cottey being a two-year institution to a four-year school offering a wide range of visionary and unique baccalaureate degrees.

She has also possessed the remarkable energy to steward the first comprehensive capital campaign in the school's his-

tory, criss-crossing the country to rally the troops to exceed the campaign's fundraising goals.

Not many college presidents achieve rock star status. Dr. Rogers' signature red glasses and confident smile are immediately recognizable by nearly 230,000 P.E.O. members. Her legacy will live on with the completion of the new Judy and Glenn Rogers Fine Arts Building.

**Greg Hoffman**

Dr. Judy Rogers deserves all the accolades we can award for her 10 years of service to Cottey. Without her vision and hard work, we would not be constructing the Judy and Glenn Rogers Fine Arts Building or have had the extremely successful result from the *Defining Moment* Campaign that has provided so many opportunities for our students. Working closely with Dr. Rogers over the past seven years as a trustee (and especially the most recent two years as Chairman), has been a pleasure and a great learning experience. My thanks to not only Judy, but also Glenn, for their fine representation of our College over the past ten years! I wish them well in their retirement and look forward to celebrating their achievements.

**Janet Brown**



## message from the PRESIDENT

# Honoring Women Leaders

Throughout history, women have led the way through governing, teaching, giving, inventing, writing, and nearly any other endeavor you can name. During the fall semester, Cottey has sought out and recognized a few of these women leaders or women's organizations during our *Going Places* initiative. Our honorees are advocates for positive social change who help to close the leadership gap and create a more equitable society, individuals who have garnered respect within their communities.

The first Cottey College Women Going Places Award was presented to Nicole Vap, Cottey Class of 1989. Nicole is a newsroom leader at KUSA, a prominent Denver news station. She leads a team of award-winning reporters and producers who investigate government corruption, questionable business practices, crime, and scams targeting the people of Colorado. She and her team are the winners of many prestigious awards including a 2011 DuPont-Columbia University Silver Baton Award for excellence in journalism, numerous regional Emmy and Edward R. Murrow awards, and other recognitions.

The Cottey College Women Going Places Award was also presented to the Women's

Foundation of Kansas City. The Women's Foundation promotes equity and opportunity for women and girls through philanthropy, research, and policy reform. The Foundation addresses issues affecting the economic well-being of women and their families throughout the region to eliminate the obstacles women face in achieving self-sufficiency. Cottey has partnered with the Women's Foundation to provide leadership education to Kansas City high school girls through a leadership retreat on campus.

In Northwest Arkansas, Cottey honored Denise Garner, one of Arkansas' most active philanthropists. She is the founder and chair of the board of directors of Feed Communities and has led the Northwest Arkansas area in expanding local food systems as a means of offering ongoing solutions to food insecurity. Denise is an oncology nurse who works tirelessly to address poverty, human rights, and mental health issues, and to make a difference in her community. There are women worldwide who work daily to make a positive impact. Cottey is proud to honor a few of these women who are role models for our students.

*Judy R. Rogers*

**Viewpoint**  
magazine

A Publication of Cottey College For Women, By Women, About Women

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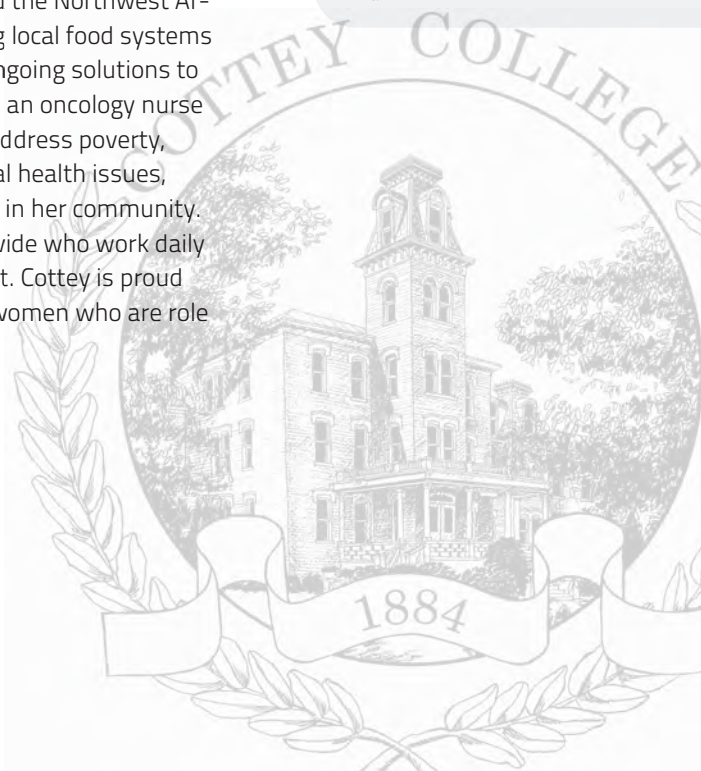
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Members of the *Viewpoint* Advisory Group include: Steve Reed, Rachel Painter, Judyth Wier, Tracy Hass Cordova, Dr. Cathryn Pridal, Dr. Mari Anne Phillips, Kristine Anderson Fulton, Nancy Kerbs, Miranda Wheatley Kassner, and Dr. Kathy Pivak.







# Remember Who, What, or When

By Tracy Hass Cordova '04

Director of Annual Fund and Alumnae Relations

At the 2012 Founder's Day Weekend celebration, the Alumnae Steering Committee challenged Cottey alumnae to raise \$2 million by January 31, 2014, for renovation and the naming opportunity for the Neale Hall portion of the new Judy and Glenn Rogers Fine Arts Building, which is now under construction. Alumnae accepted the challenge, raised the money, and submitted names for consideration. A committee thoughtfully considered each suggestion and went with the majority suggestion to keep the name Neale Hall.

In 1919, a board of local trustees had secured pledges and money to the amount of \$40,000 for an endowment fund-raising campaign for Cottey College. On November, 19, 1920, in a letter to the Bank of Higginsville, Missouri, Mary Neale instructed the bank to hold \$10,000 payable to the order of the trustees of Cottey College of Nevada, Missouri, until an annuity bond had been properly executed by the College trustees. The trustees of Cottey College met and established the annuity and met the donor's wishes.

Records do not indicate that the donor intentionally intended that the donation be for a naming opportunity at the College, but rather it was decision made to honor the generosity of

Miss Neale. In a letter dated, July 6, 1982, from then College President Evelyn Milam, to Miss Neale's great nephew, John Neale, speech professor emeritus of Dartmouth College, Dr. Milam wrote:

*No mention was made of the gift being designated for any particular purpose.... The records indicated that Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard, Cottey's founder and president, secured the consent of Miss Neale to use her gift along with a loan of \$20,000 from the Farm & Home Loan Association of Nevada to build a structure that was soon to become known as Neale Hall.*

Today's fine arts building will cost approximately \$10 million and all funds were raised or pledged before construction began. While the "new Neale Hall" will not look like it currently does, or serve the same purpose, its renovation will be dramatic and critical to the future of the arts at Cottey College. But this is no new tale for the versatile Neale Hall. Whether swimming in the "new Neale pool," graduating from Cottey, attending a dance in the Neale Hall gym, spending all-nighters working on art projects, or developing film in the dark room, Neale holds a special meaning for each class.

*Right: Construction of the new Judy and Glenn Rogers Fine Arts Building, along with the renovation of Neale Hall continues. This photo is from February 2, 2015. For updated construction photos, visit the Cottey website at [www.cottey.edu](http://www.cottey.edu).*



We love revisiting Cottey's amazing past. This issue's *Who, What, When* features a photo of the swimming pool in the original Neale Hall basement. If you possess personal photos of Neale Hall, share them! Post your photo on your personal Facebook page and share your memory about Neale Hall and tag "Cottey College Alumnae" in the post so the Alumnae Office can share in the fun of remembering all the purposes that Neale Hall once served. Don't have a Facebook page? Send your image and story to [alumnae@cottey.edu](mailto:alumnae@cottey.edu) with the following information: your name, class year, photo, brief explanation of the photo, and the words PLEASE POST ON FACEBOOK!

# Regional Groups Showing Growth

By Karma Quick Panwala '01 CCAA Board President  
and Mary Frances Peterson Main '87 CCAA Board Regional Groups Chair

This fall, the Cottey College Alumnae Association kicked off its Regional Groups. Alumnae, family, and friends gathered in restaurants and event spaces to meet other alumnae, to network, and to create more awareness of what is happening at Cottey College.

In September, we had a good-sized group at The Tavern in Lowry, Colorado, and had a wonderful time chatting with Dr. Rogers and other representatives of the College. CCAA board member **Mary-Frances Main '87** was in attendance as well as many active alumnae in the area. The group met again in January at the same spot.

In October, the Kansas City Regional Group had a great kick-off celebration at Boulevard Brewery. Forty-five Cottey supporters met old and new friends, toured the brewery, enjoyed local brews, and cheered on the Royals as they clinched the American League Championship and confirmed a spot at the World Series. Four CCAA board members were in attendance, and those present took initiative to plan the next Kansas City Regional group meeting on February 10, 2015. Cottey alumnae and their families and friends will cheer for the Cottey Comets basketball team at Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City.

In November alumnae gathered in Arkansas in support of Cottey's marketing initiative, *Going Places*. Fifteen alumnae attended, including CCAA board member **Elizabeth Ferranti Barr '97** with class years ranging from 1950 to 2012.

The CCAA Regional Groups has a three-fold purpose:

1. To bring area Cottey alumnae together to promote Cottey College within the community through socialization, projects, networking, and programs.
2. To develop a plan for recruiting potential students from the surrounding region.
3. To inform alumnae about campus happenings and to communicate the importance of continued financial support for the College.

Alumnae who gather may participate in a variety of activities created to meet the needs or preferences of that particular population. The only requirement is that these activities foster the goals of Cottey College.

Let's keep the Regional Groups momentum going! If you are interested in learning more about Regional Groups, please contact the CCAA Regional Groups Chair, Mary-Frances Main, at [mary-frances@widget-inc.com](mailto:mary-frances@widget-inc.com).

Register online at: <http://community.cottey.edu/FD2015>





Leadership Essential, Experience Guaranteed, Learning Everywhere, Environment Ideal, and Ambitions Realized.

# UNRESTRICTED LEARNING

At Cottey College, our premier educational opportunities are designed for women, by women, and about women. Unrestricted access to expert faculty, leadership opportunities, and experiential learning opportunities, prepare Cottey women to succeed both professionally and personally. Our ability to fund great ideas and provide an education for women from around the world is made possible through gifts to Cottey's Annual Fund.

Cottey is now enrolling alumnae, parents, P.E.O.s, and friends of the College who invest \$1,200 in the unrestricted Annual Fund into our Cottey Associates program. This program will:

- Recognize couples for combined gifts
- Count employer matching gifts toward each membership
- Provide annual recognition
- Invite participants to one phone conversation with the College President

## COTTEY ASSOCIATES UNRESTRICTED LEARNING

Strengthening our institution, one member at a time.

**COTTEY**  
COLLEGE

**The Annual Fund**



## COTTEY

LEADING THE WAY

By Steve Reed



One of the options we considered for the cover this month was the iconic “We Can Do It!” poster<sup>1</sup> from World War II, with the theme of Leading the Way and the subtitle: Women Who Take Charge.



Originally, that poster was one in a series designed to keep worker morale up and encourage production during the war effort. It's only been in the last 20 years that it seems to have taken on life as a symbol for female empowerment.

Certainly that kind of empowerment is found on the Cottey campus. Alumna **Ivy Fitzgerald '06** once said, “Cottey believes that everyone who comes there can do something amazing, but Cottey lets you define what amazing is.”

Amazing is the right word. On January 2, I began my 24th year at Cottey College. What two-plus decades here have given me is perspective, the long view, if you will, to see what happens over time with so many alumnae I have known since

they were students. I am consistently impressed at how the alumnae from this small college in this small town go out and do big things.

Serendipitously, as I was contemplating my longevity here and the number of amazing alumnae I knew, I received an email from alumna **Kay Anderson '87**, who was also an admission representative during my first years here. She commented on my many years of service, and we began a conversation about what it is that encourages Cottey alumnae to do great things.

“I don’t think it’s Cottey ALUMNAE who have the gumption to go out there and do great things,” Anderson answered. “I think it’s that Cottey ATTRACTS those high school students who have the gumption to go out and do great things. Cottey then serves as a ‘greenhouse’ or an incubator to nourish her heart, mind and soul ... and grow her courage through critical developmental years.

“Think about it,” she continued, “what high school girls do you know who would give up all they know and all their friends to go to a teensy college in a small town in the middle of nowhere? Having been a recruiter, [I know] the type attracted to Cottey is that courageous young woman who has the gumption to do something different and who isn’t afraid of the unknown.

“THEN ... what Cottey does is provide that extra little secret gift. It’s the gift of can-do. The gift of the most amazing role models ... the gift of ‘Yes, you CAN do it’ ... the gift of a place, of an institution, of a LEGACY that holds her desires, her goals, her courage as sacred.

“We’ve all watched those 18-20-year-old girls with huge dreams get distracted at humongous universities,” said Anderson, “and drawn in to activities and pressures that don’t exist at Cottey.

“Cottey, since 1884, has stood there quietly as a beacon offering the ‘gift’ of growth.”

–Kay Anderson '87

“Cottey, since 1884, has stood there quietly as a beacon offering the ‘gift’ of growth ... and attracting young women from across the world who often times have no idea why they’re attending Cottey, but who just know ‘they should’ or ‘they have to.’ It’s years later they look back and realize the true gifts that came as a result of those years.”

Anderson, along with the other alumnae featured here, are all women who take charge. From **Janet Brown '71** to two current students, the one commonality you’ll find in these women is the ability and desire to take charge of their lives and their world. A few years ago, Beyoncé Knowles had a popular song titled “Who Run the World.” The chorus was “Who run the world? Girls!” With apologies to Beyoncé, I think the right response to the question should be “Cottey Women!”

<sup>1</sup> The poster was produced by J. Howard Miller in 1943 for Westinghouse Electric as one of several inspirational images to boost worker morale. This image has been often called “Rosie the Riveter” but it was never known by that title during the war.







# A Legacy of Leadership

## Virginia Alice Cottey Was the First in a Line of Strong Leaders

By Nancy Kerbs

Director of Assessment and Institutional Research

The work of a college president has many tangible outcomes—programs, buildings, and degrees—but there is also a less perceptible quality to this leadership. During its first 45 years, one person—the Founder—was responsible for leading the way for Cottey College. From 1884 to 1929, she alone made the decisions that would carry out her vision for educating women. Cottey is a strong institution today as a result of the legacy left by those who followed her as president.

She attempted to retire in 1922, when she appointed James Harmon to the presidency. This lasted only two years, and she returned to the presidency until 1929 following the acceptance of the College by the P.E.O. Sisterhood. That summer, Mary Rose Prosser, Ph.D. of Keokuk, Iowa, was named president. Dr. Prosser brought to Cottey knowledge, enthusiasm and a great capacity for work. Her leadership resulted in a progressively higher standard of scholarship, and concentrating all of the resources of the institution on a junior college program.

Many well-established colleges were finding survival difficult when Dr. Florence Boehmer became president in 1933. At Cottey, declining enrollment, deteriorating facilities, and ownership by an organization inexperienced in college administration complicated the situation. Despite these difficulties, Dr. Boehmer saw the tremendous possibilities provided by the relationship between Cottey and the P.E.O. Sisterhood and she and the faculty continued to work together with P.E.O. to develop a college of high quality.

Dr. Marjorie Mitchell assumed the Cottey presidency in 1938. She shared the Founder's vision that women in coeducational institutions had less opportunity than men. During Dr. Mitchell's tenure, the College leadership made an important decision—to limit its effort to a program of liberal arts. In addition, Cottey achieved the long-awaited goal of regional accreditation.

With the Founder's sister Dora in attendance, Dr. Blanche Hinman Dow was inaugurated as the College's sixth president in 1949, assuming leadership of a college that had survived an economic depression and a world war. Dr. Dow convinced the Board of Trustees to rescind the policy

precluding the admission of women from other countries, and Cottey became known as the "College of World Friendship." Cottey College Seminar was initiated by Dr. Dow, and is still held on campus in even-numbered years in August for P.E.O. leaders to visit Cottey to learn first-hand about the College they loyally support.

During the next decade, Cottey reflected the turbulent times in our nation. Many women's colleges became coeducational or closed, but Cottey kept its commitment to educating only women. In what may seem like a contradiction, the two presidents during this era were men. They led changes that improved student recruitment, bolstered community relations, and strengthened academic standards. Mr. Ted McCarrell, the seventh president, was appointed to the Cottey College Board of Trustees in 1960, and resigned as chairman to assume the presidency. Following his resignation in 1969, Dr. Jon O. Hondrum was selected president. Dr. Hondrum's wife Ona Lou, a soprano of note, had taught at Cottey in the late 1950s before their marriage. Dr. Hondrum resigned in 1974.

Evelyn L. Milam, Ph.D., the ninth president, was inaugurated in 1974. In her first year at Cottey, Dr. Milam was forced to make difficult decisions to cut costs. Once the College was financially stable, she sought improved faculty qualifications and better science equipment. Dr. Milam also realized that if Cottey was to continue providing an excellent education for young women into the next century, a substantial endowment would be necessary. At her retirement in 1986, the Anniversary Fund endowment exceeded \$10 million.

A legacy of academic excellence and financial stability allowed Helen Washburn, Ph.D., the 10th president, to set new goals for Cottey. In 1986, Dr. Washburn established a formal strategic planning process that brought Cottey to the forefront of women's education with new programs and initiatives. She established an international experience in 2000. Selected faculty and staff teach educational modules and explore a European city with second-year students for the first week of spring break each year. Dr. Washburn re-established competitive athletics, and led the College through two successful requests for continued accredita-

Past Leaders continued on inside back cover

# A New Vision for Journalism

Graphic by Joyce Rice, Symbolia



Symbolia co-founders Joyce Rice (left) and Erin Polgreen '02 in illustrated form.

## Erin Polgreen '02 Expands Storytelling Into New Forms

By Steve Reed

The early 2000s at Cottey were something of a heyday for student journalism on campus. Many of those award-winning students have gone on to careers in the media. Most have followed traditional paths in newspapers or broadcast journalism, but **Erin Polgreen '02**, forged her own trail in the media world.

After graduating from Webster University in 2004, Polgreen had no idea how to find a media job, as the first wave of newspaper layoffs following the digital transition had just begun. After a year with Americorps, Polgreen "went back to journalism with a vengeance," as she put it.

"I got an internship at a political magazine called *In These Times*, was hired within a few weeks, and worked my way up to associate publisher. From there, I worked with a national network of media outlets called The Media Consortium in a variety of leadership roles creating editorial collaborations and encouraging innovation. After five years, I was really hungry to apply those practices and build something new. I left TMC and raised \$34,000 in seed funding to launch *Symbolia*."

*Symbolia* is described on its website as merging "long-form journalism, comics, and illustration in dazzling new ways." It's certainly a unique way to produce a news magazine, combining reporting with comics. Why this format?

"Comic books and journalism are two of my longstanding obsessions. My first job was in a comic book store," said Polgreen. "That said, I'm far from the first person to create comics journalism. There's a long history of non-fiction comic books around the world. I did, however, notice a new crop of creators that were publishing reported comics online, covering issues as diverse as wineries in Northern California and canvassing for the U.S. Census. I saw the opportunities for the larger journalism world and organized several panels at conferences to explore the topic. Then I got my first iPad, and went from perusing a magazine of photojournalism to reading a comic book. It was a literal 'Eureka!' moment. I knew what I wanted to do and went after it. I saw a place for great magazine-style reporting in comic book format. I raised money, brought in Joyce Rice as co-founder and creative director, and we launched in December 2012."

Despite using a non-traditional method to tell stories, Polgreen is not worried that her work won't be taken seriously.

"No, and that really hasn't been the case," she said. "I'm proud to have been an early advocate for the digital comics journalism space and have done a lot of work training media organizations to produce their own work. The field has really changed and



people are truly open to experimenting with new ways to tell stories. One of my favorite projects was a set of reported comics on the human impacts of climate change for *Years of Living Dangerously*, a Showtime documentary series."

Matching the right authors and artists to tell *Symbolia*'s stories is part of the challenge, but it gets easier with each issue.

"Each issue has an open call for pitches. We now have a database of over 100 artists who we would like to work with and a couple dozen people we like to work with regularly," Polgreen explained. "I strongly believe in partnering writers and illustrators and giving them the support they need to make their best work."

*Symbolia* is a digital only magazine. Does Polgreen see this as the future for all news outlets? Is traditional journalism dead?

"Journalism is not dead and will never die. The ways we make journalism are changing fundamentally and media outlets need to get with digital in order to meet the needs of as many consumers as possible. Our information needs are changing," she added.

What is the future for *Symbolia*?

"We're hoping to expand and try new forms of storytelling," said Polgreen. "Right now, I'm developing strategic partnerships with academic institutions to educate emerging talent as well as source, produce, and distribute content. So, Cottey alums, get in touch if you want to make something!"

Polgreen is definitely leading the way in new journalism.

Does she consider herself a ground-breaker?

"I do consider

myself a groundbreaker," she said. "I love making new things and trying out new possibilities. But I want to be clear: breaking new ground is not something you can do alone. Lone wolves don't impress me. I'm a collaborator and believe that the best work comes from solid teams with many different talents. *Symbolia* would not be what it is without the vision and gumption of my co-founder or

the work of our brilliant contributors. I just had the vision. They have all helped bring it to life."

Polgreen has advice for current Cottey journalists and others interested in the field.

"If you are interested in journalism, make something today," she explained. "Experiment with different types of storytelling for different types of readers. Put your work out there for the world to see and learn from the response. Don't be overly precious, but strive for excellence. Mistakes happen. The real trick is developing the intellectual muscle and editorial mindset to be good, consistently, and then doing just that."

*Symbolia* is online at [www.symboliamag.com](http://www.symboliamag.com).



Heatwave comic by Andy Warner



Erin Polgreen '02

"I love making new things and trying out new possibilities."  
~Erin Polgreen



## Student Spotlight / Sydney Santana



Sydney Santana is one of those people who has never met a stranger. As president of Golden Key, the student ambassador program, that's a real plus as that organization is responsible for campus tours and hosting prospective students. "I love meeting new people, and learning about them," she said. "It's pure fascination."

Santana also serves as the editor of the *Retrospect*, the Cottey yearbook, and is the Robertson Hall treasurer. In addition to her outgoing personality, Santana's other strong assets are her self-confidence and determination.

"As a child, my biggest dream was to attend college because my parents were never able to further their education beyond the 12th grade."

Cottey alumna **Julie Lohr-Shelton '00** can take some credit for getting Santana to Cottey. Lohr-Shelton was Santana's eighth-grade science teacher. Once she found out that Santana had applied to Cottey, she helped the process along, but was never pushy.

"You would think that Julie would have constantly encouraged me to attend Cottey, but she didn't," said Santana. "She allowed me to make my own decision, but when I would ask her questions about her alma mater, she was always willing to share her stories with me. Listening to her experience helped solidify my decision to attend Cottey. I actually didn't

tell Julie about my acceptance and commitment to attend right away, but when I did she was so excited. And now that I am on my way to finish up my Cottey journey, I am certain that if it weren't for Julie I probably wouldn't be here and I don't think my experience would have been as fulfilling if it weren't for having her as someone to fall back on."

Led by her passion for science and her desire to help others, Santana, a first-generation college student, plans to pursue a career in cancer research.

"I would love to go into cancer research or just a career in which I can apply my scientific knowledge on a daily basis. The College offers me endless opportunities to explore both the sciences and the arts, hone my leadership skills, and gain a broader perspective of our global society," she added. "My entire Cottey career has been so fulfilling. When I first set sail to attend Cottey, I thought I was just coming here to attain a degree, but I have never been so wrong in my entire life. I have become a part of a sisterhood that is full of wonderful and inspiring women and that in itself amazes me. Cottey has changed my life in so many ways, as I have never been more proud to express who I am and have expanded my area of comfort as I now have a strong desire for adventure. Cottey has taught me to be a woman of courage while I play the role as a student, leader, and as a woman in society."



# Our Graduates Are Our Outcomes

By **Melanie Gottlieb**

**Vice President for Enrollment Management**

While our bachelor programs are still growing, we are already seeing their results: programs that actively engage students with their learning and provide them with the skills necessary to pursue their future career and educational goals. When we talk to potential students and their families about Cottey, the stories of our current students bring the experience to life.



**Zoe Walker**

Psychology students Zoe Walker and Monica Hernandez completed their psychology degree capstones in December. Students create a portfolio and make a presentation to the college community showcasing their skills and experiences. The capstone ties together their experiences and helps them to articulate the skills that they have gained in ways that will help them to gain employment and entrance to graduate school.

Practical experiences are a strong component of the psychology program. Both Zoe and Monica completed an internship. "We were required to do a volunteer experience for 37.5 hours, and I was able to extend my experience into a 90-hour internship," explained Zoe. She was placed at New Beginnings, a Behavioral Health Center at the Nevada Regional Medical Center. Her responsibilities included participation in a wide variety of inpatient and outpatient processes and treatments, including biopsychosocial assessments, group treatment and education programs, and individual sessions with patients assisting them with their post-treatment plans. Zoe was able to employ her Cottey leadership experience in her internship as well. "I planned and led a 15-minute relaxation group with 12 patients that focused on imagery (thinking of a place in your mind), deep breathing, and muscle relaxation (tightening a certain muscle and then releasing it slowly)," Zoe explained. She was praised by her supervisor for her excellent work.

Monica's internship was at Missouri Probation and Parole. "My internship was an amazing experience," she said. Her work was very broad, including data entry of



**Monica Hernandez**

individual crimes and sentences, interviewing offenders to determine if they were meeting the terms of their parole, and attending court. One of her larger and more rewarding projects was her work with a transition group. "For about seven weeks, I was also involved with the cognitive-behavioral skills therapy program, Pathways to Change, where I was

able to observe the different lesson plans that were given to offenders of substance abuse to complete." Her experience in her internship has definitely shaped her future plans.

When asked about the value of their education, a single theme is quite strong. "What I value the most about my Cottey education is the relationships with my professors," said Monica. "They taught me everything I know. I can rely on them for anything, they are always willing to meet with me even if the subject matter is not about class. My relationship with my professors is very dear to me because I know that I would not have the same opportunity if I was at a different university."

"It was a great experience to know I am a name rather than a number, and that my ideas actually matter in and outside of the classroom," added Zoe.

Both young women are headed to graduate school in the near future. Zoe is still exploring her options in either clinical psychology or social work. Monica is planning to earn a master's in forensic psychology.

## COTTEY

### Sharing Cottey

Whether you are an alumna or friend and supporter of the College, now is the time to share Cottey with a young woman in your life. Use our Refer a Student Form at [www.cottey.edu](http://www.cottey.edu) or simply give the Office of Enrollment Management a phone call. Cottey is busy planning recruitment events, and who knows? We may be in your area! Start making your plans to change a young woman's life today.



## Alumnae Spotlight / Janet Brown '71

By Steve Reed

Janet Brown '71, has quite the Cottey pedigree. Not only is her mother Pat a 1947 graduate of the College, but her father, William Brown, also served as a Cottey trustee from 1997-2004. Appointed in 2008, Janet Brown is the current chair of the Cottey College Board of Trustees.

Brown is a partner with the firm Boehm Brown in Orlando, Florida, where she concentrates her practice in the areas of insurance coverage disputes, property cases (including arson or fraud issues, construction litigation and environmental matters), health/life claims, and bad faith litigation.

Women entering the legal field were still something of a novelty 44 years ago. Brown wasn't sure that law would be her career choice until her last year at Cottey.

"I thought about law but truly didn't decide until my last year of college," said Brown. "At Cottey, I was very active in traveling with our debate team all over the country which reinforced my love of extemporaneous speaking and my ability to 'think on my feet.' However, I also loved working with the Cottey newspaper which we resurrected while I was a student, so journalism was a continuing area of interest."

After graduating from Marshall-Wythe School of Law, College of William & Mary (J.D. 1976), she was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1977. Did she have any difficulty finding employment as a woman?

"I was very fortunate to be hired by a small insurance defense firm which was just opening its doors," said Brown. "I became a full partner within a year of admission to the Florida Bar. That is a highly unusual circumstance in the legal world."

Brown's father was a great motivator for her as she entered the legal field, and her great-grandfather, also an attorney, was an inspiration as well.

"My Dad encouraged me to go to law school. He always said I could win any argument and would be a very successful lawyer. I also had a great-grandfather who was a lawyer in Leon County, Iowa. Although I never met him, to this day I have his Iowa Bar credentials hanging in my office."

Although it is quite common today to see women in the courtroom as both attorneys and judges, it was not the case in 1977.

"You are quite right that women lawyers were few and far between when I began practicing, especially in the field of law I chose," she explained. "Judges just weren't prepared to deal with women in the courtroom in many instances. I can recall being asked to show my Florida Bar admission credentials to gain entry to chambers for hearings in some of our more rural counties."

"One of my older insurance clients gave me a compliment through one of my older male partners: 'dealing with Janet on claims is just like working with a man.' To him, that was high praise."

In 1977, Brown found work with a small insurance defense firm that was just opening its doors. Interestingly enough, Brown's law firm, the same one she began with 38 years ago, is today completely women-owned.

"We have had a variety of male/female ratios and employees," she explained. "Our firm was one of the first to have a majority of its partners as females."



Now we are exclusively female owned and operated although not necessarily by design. Our two male partners both retired within a year of one another and we simply haven't replaced them."

Although it is easier for a woman today to become an attorney, Brown cautions that it is still hard work.

"Study hard and be prepared to work hard when you secure internships and ultimately a permanent job," she advised. "Many firms and companies want and need diversification which makes young women who are qualified law graduates in higher demand than used to be the case. Select a mentor who can assist you in navigating the waters on your new job and/or someone who can advise with your job search efforts. While it isn't fair, it remains true that many employers still look at the women whom they hire as not devoted fully to their jobs in that they are wives and mothers as well as lawyers. Be prepared to counter that attitude. Seek balance between your work life and professional obligations and a family life."





*Dr. Carol Clyde (left) director of the Serenbetz Institute, visits with Mrs. Thelma Serenbetz following the dedication of the Institute that now bears her name.*

## Points of Pride: Thelma Serenbetz

**M**rs. Thelma Serenbetz learned of Cottey College after becoming a member of Chapter AJ, New York. She had never heard of the College prior to joining the Sisterhood. But the more she learned about Cottey, the more impressed she became with the College and its mission. That led her to a meeting with Dr. Judy Rogers, followed by a \$1 million gift to name the Institute for Women's Leadership and Social Responsibility.

On P.E.O. Visit Day, October 24, she and her husband Warren, and granddaughter Skyler, traveled to campus for the dedication of the Serenbetz Institute for Women's Leadership, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness. Following the dedication, the three of them joined the *Viewpoint* for a brief interview.

**Viewpoint:** When you first learned about Cottey, what was it about the College that interested you to learn more about it?

**Thelma Serenbetz:** After I joined P.E.O., I found a group of women who cared enough to support this College for women. I learned that Cottey was a college for women that taught them how to become leaders in their own communities. I discovered that once you graduated from Cottey, you can't sit around and do nothing!

**VP:** Why does leadership appeal to you?

**TS:** I think it is so important for women to have leadership roles. The world would be a better place if women took more leadership roles. It is impossible for women to become leaders without education and training. Problems occur in the world when women are pushed into secondary roles.

**VP:** Do you consider yourself a leader?

**TS:** In some cases, yes. If you want to have your voice heard, you speak up. I like to be in leadership roles. Some women don't. I've been involved in my son's activities, women's organizations,

and church. I've also worked for the Republican party locally. Local work is so important; that's where changes will start.

**VP:** What characteristics would you hope to see in students who complete Institute programs. In other words, what's a Cottey leader look like to you?

**TS:** They will have the ability to stand up and make their ideas, thoughts, and desires known. They will have been taught self-confidence. They will find ease in themselves and will help others feel at ease with them.

**VP:** Now that you have visited campus, what are your impressions?

**TS:** I'm very impressed with Cottey. They do a marvelous job. Womens' colleges concentrate on women and they know that being a leader is important. They give students the tools they need to be leaders. Most important, they give the gift of knowledge.

**VP:** What other philanthropies are you involved in?

**TS:** Our family foundation, of course. We educate children at the preschool level and give them the start that they need.

Skyler started a non-profit while she was in high school to support children. A board, composed of students, makes the decisions, and the money goes to local organizations. The goal is to educate young people on philanthropic giving. There are currently four Taft High School students on that board.

Other philanthropies include the Thelma Serenbetz Scholar of the Year at Waterside High School in Stamford, Connecticut. That program is 10 years old.

I have met so many wonderful people who want to make a difference in their lives.

# Cotley Named to President's Honor Roll



By Renee Hampton

Interim Coordinator of Career and Transfer Planning and Community Liaison

Cotley College has been named to the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for Interfaith Community Service. The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes institutions of higher education that support exemplary community service programs and raise the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships.

The institutions were recognized for their achievements in general community service, interfaith community service, economic opportunity, or education. This is the first year that one of the four categories honors schools that include interfaith engagement as an intentional component of community service. The interfaith community service category grew out of the President's Interfaith and Community Service Challenge, an initiative inviting colleges and universities to commit to a year of interfaith cooperation and community service.

"Service and higher education go hand in hand," said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "These schools are inspiring young leaders to roll up their sleeves and work alongside community members to solve problems. By recognizing the institutions who are leading the way to achieve meaningful, measurable results for the communi-

ties they serve, we also highlight the vital role all colleges and universities play in addressing community challenges and placing more students on a lifelong path of civic engagement."

CNCS, the federal agency for volunteering and service, has administered the award since 2006 in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the American Council on Education, Campus Compact, and the Interfaith Youth Core. A total of 766 higher education institutions were named to the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Of this number, 38 were named "With Distinction" in interfaith community service.

Inspired by the thousands of college students who traveled across the country to support relief efforts along the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community challenges. As a result, more students are likely to pursue a lifelong path of civic engagement that achieves meaningful and measurable outcomes in their communities. College students make a significant contribution to their communities through volunteering and service, according to the most recent Volunteering and Civic Life in America report.

In 2012, 3.1 million college students dedicated more than 118 million hours of service across the country — a contribution valued at \$2.5 billion.

At Cotley College, the experiential learning and interfaith programs are committed to promoting service learning as an effective pedagogical method that develops educated students through participation in activities and organizations that benefit the community served by the College. The experiential learning and interfaith programs integrate educational achievement with community involvement. These programs rely heavily on faculty participation and staff coordination.

During the 2012-13 school year, Cotley College students served 6,527 hours of community service. Some of Cotley's exemplary community service projects include International Peace Week, the Multicultural Fair, Martin Luther King Day of Service, Join in for Joplin, the Community Partner Fair as well as STOMP and SUCCEED, after-school programs sponsored by the psychology department.

From the support of P.E.O. chapters and alumnae across the country and beyond, Cotley's existence is based upon service to others. Service is an integral component to a Cotley education and to the establishment of mutually beneficial campus and community relations.



# Faculty Feature: Trisha Stubblefield

By Steve Reed

If one is looking for women who are leading the way, one would not have to look beyond the Cottey campus. Dr. Trisha Stubblefield, professor of English, has been not only a stellar instructor, but a great role model as well. Stubblefield was instrumental in the development of the College's first baccalaureate programs, including the B.A. in English, and has been key in developing a Women's Studies minor.

"I am very interested in the history of Cottey College," said Stubblefield. "Thus, not surprisingly, to get be a part of a very profound change to that history was incredibly meaningful to me. Granted, creating and implementing a new baccalaureate program was—and continues to be—a significant amount of work, but having the opportunity to develop new courses and educational experiences in areas that I love, but had not been able to work into the associate-degree curriculum, was extremely gratifying and exciting. Moreover, being able to link two of my passions, English and Women's Studies, into a B.A. degree inspired me to work even harder to fulfill Cottey's mission of educating women. While Cottey alumna and former Cottey faculty member **Melinda Rhodes DiSalvo '89** deserves credit for first proposing a women writers track, I have thoroughly enjoyed developing the idea into a viable degree option for our students."

Stubblefield noted that the English degree is always a work in progress. Now in its fourth year, the program will see a few tweaks in the next year.

"We plan to add a few more required writing courses, a required internship, and more courses that are interdisciplinary and that draw from cultural studies," she explained.

As passionate as she is about the English program, Stubblefield has equal passion for the Women's Studies program and believes both are essential for Cottey students' success.

"The Women's Studies program at Cottey links directly to the mission of the College. Essentially, Women's Studies makes women the focus of academic inquiry," she said. "Despite all the gains made by the women's movement, I continue to be dismayed by how many young

women come to Cottey with very little knowledge of their 'herstory.' Classroom discussions suggest students read primarily books written by men and study primarily history experienced and shaped by men. As a women's college, we must work to remedy this dismal situation."

It's not just famous women leaders and authors that Stubblefield believes should be studied. At the end of an extensive list of women she noted should be studied, she added: "The women in our own lives. In academia, we tend to overlook the women we know and love, but their lives are often marked by courageous and inspiring acts, and a wide-ranging, hard-earned wisdom. We have much to learn from 'ordinary women.'"

What reading material is on this English professor's night stand?

*How Dogs Love Us: A Neuroscientist and His Adopted Dog Decode the Canine Brain* by Gregory Berns

*Bad Feminist: Essays* by Roxane Gay

*Lila* by Marilynne Robinson

*Yes Please* by Amy Poehler

Even with the addition of the four-year degree, Stubblefield emphasized the importance of the exposition courses Cottey students take.

"The first-year writing sequence is so important not only for students' success in academia and beyond, but also for helping students learn who they are, what they think, and how they can communicate what matters to them; in other words, we want to help students become active agents in their own lives and in the world, or, as our mission states, 'learners, leaders, and citizens.' While our program develops standard English skills—deep reading, critical thinking, and effective writing—we also seek to foster young women who are empowered and equipped to change the world for the better."



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"We also seek to foster young women who are empowered and equipped to change the world for the better."  
Dr. Trisha Stubblefield

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## Student Spotlight / Elizabeth "Kate" Barlow

Elizabeth "Kate" Barlow doesn't have a cape, but her nickname among the student housing staff is "Super Kate." Barlow is a little uncomfortable with her nickname, but she *IS* super. Super prepared, that is. She has her first aid and CPR certifications. She is also a first responder, holds her Emergency Medical Responder Certificate, as well as rock climbing and ropes certifications, and has an associate degree in criminal justice. It's no surprise that Barlow served as a resident assistant in Robertson Hall before her graduation this December with a B.A. in International Relations. Did we also mention that Barlow spent summer 2014 with Semester at Sea?

Everything Barlow does is well thought out and planned in advance. Prior to her arrival at Cottey, Barlow earned her Associate in Arts at Sheridan College in Wyoming. Next was determining where to transfer to earn her bachelor degree. How did she select Cottey?

"Cottey won!" answered Barlow. "When I was looking at schools to transfer to I did an entire cost benefits analysis that covered everything about the colleges I was looking at. When it came down to it, Cottey was at the top. So I chose Cottey sight unseen."

Barlow's next (well-planned) step is to attend law school. In between Cottey and law school, however, is a valuable experience.

"My father is a Wyoming State Representative," Barlow explained. "I have worked as a Wyoming legislative intern and aid for the last three years. I have assisted the Wyoming Women's Legislative Caucus with multiple events and campaigns. This spring I will be interning for Wyoming's Senator [Mike] Enzi in D.C."

Although she has her life planned through law school, Barlow's career choice is still up in the air. She had mentioned several times that she would like to be the attorney general for Wyoming, but as she was applying to law school, she was leaving her options open.

"I don't know if I have completely decided that is what I want to do," Barlow said. "It would be amazing if I could be the AG of Wyoming, but I am open to other options; judge, district attorney, etc. I enjoy politics, but I enjoy the behind the scene work not the public part, so I don't think I want to be governor or a senator but that could change."



With all of Barlow's experiences, she rates Cottey high.

"I have loved every moment of my time at Cottey: every paper, every all-nighter, every two-hour lunch with friends. It is truly the people that make Cottey; they make the academics top notch; they make having a campus job amazing; they give a whole new meaning to lifelong friends and they make you not want to leave."

## Registration is Now Open

Registration for **Founder's Day** is still open. If your class year ends in a "0" or "5" you'll want to be here for your class reunion. Visit <http://community.cottey.edu/FD2015> for details and online registration.

You're invited to join us for **Vacation College** at Cottey May 19-24, 2015. Experience a time of growth and renewal as you explore new areas of interest, hone your developing skills, or gain insight into your fields of expertise. With a wide array of course offerings, Vacation College has something for everyone. Experience Cottey College for yourself and grow! Online course descriptions and registration are open now at [cottey.edu/peo/grow](http://cottey.edu/peo/grow).

Prospective students are encouraged to register for one of two unique summer programs. Held June 21-26, **A Workshop for Women Who Are Going Places** will offer rising junior-, and senior-aged girls insight into leadership, skill development, and college and career preparation, while showcasing everything Cottey has to offer for their future education. Cottey

professors and distinguished alumnae will lead sessions on topics ranging from understanding online presence to developing service learning skills. The best part? In addition to the toolbox of skills that each participant will take home, all students who choose to attend Cottey College will also be awarded a \$12,000 scholarship for her years at Cottey (\$3,000 annually)! Visit <http://www.cottey.edu/future-students/workshop/> for more details.

In collaboration with the National Peace Academy, Cottey will cohost an intensive peacebuilding initiative summer workshop for high school girls on June 21-27. During the **Peacebuilding Intensive**, you will come together with other young women to explore the process of change for yourself, your community, and your world. The one-week program will include group discussions and activities, presentations, periods of reflection and sharing, focused small group experiential and planning sessions, and fun celebrations in community. More information is online at [www.cottey.edu/peacebuilding](http://www.cottey.edu/peacebuilding).



# Faculty/Staff Notes

**Dr. Rusalyn Andrews**, professor of theatre and speech, attended the National Communication Association Annual Conference in Chicago from November 19-21.

**Traci Borders** was hired as the new faculty secretary, replacing Linda Gundy who retired December 19. Most recently, Borders has been a ministry assistant at the First Baptist Church of Nevada and prior to that position she was the office manager at Sac Osage Home Health. Borders holds an Associate in Arts degree from Vatterott College in Joplin and resides in El Dorado Springs, Missouri.

**Dr. Carmen Bourbon**, associate professor of Spanish, attended the 56th Annual Midwest Modern Language Association Convention held in Detroit, Michigan, November 13-16, 2014. She presented a paper titled "The City as an Entity of Trickery and Empowerment in Ana María Fuster Lavin's short story 'Bocetos de una ciudad silente.'"

**Tracy Comstock**, adjunct assistant professor of English, has published a novel titled *Murder is Our Mascot*. The mystery surrounds the death of a high school coach and the efforts of the protagonist, an English teacher in the school, to solve the mystery. Comstock has a second book in the series that is scheduled to be released this summer.

**Dr. Carol Clyde**, director of the Serenbetz Institute, and assistant professor of leadership, attended the 16th Annual Global Conference of the International Leadership Association (ILA), focused on Conscious Leading for Global Change: Emergence of our Collective Realities.

The conference was held October 30-November 2, 2014, in San Diego. The ILA is a dynamic organization filled with both scholars and practitioners in the field of leadership, and Cottey became an institutional member earlier this fall. While there, she attended the Advancing Theories of Women and Leadership preconference workshop and the 5th Annual Women and Leadership Networking Luncheon in addition to a variety of sessions on leadership education, women's leadership, and educational strategies.

**Dr. Amanda Gilchrist**, assistant professor of psychology, attended the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Long Beach, California, from November 20-23, 2014. She presented a poster with co-author, Nelson Cowan, titled "Examining Speed of Visual Working Memory Shows Evidence for Two Search Processes."

**Dr. Cathryn Pridal** has resigned from her position as vice president for academic affairs effective February 27, 2015. Dr. Pridal made significant contributions to Cottey College during her six years as vice president. Her work to establish the baccalaureate degree program was especially significant to the future of Cottey. Cottey values having had Dr. Pridal as a colleague, and wishes her every success in the future.

**Dr. Derek Rivard**, associate professor of history, served, by invitation, as a reader and part-time unpaid copy editor for a biography released in December 2014: *Realizing the Score: Remembering William H. Rivard, A 20th Century*

*Renaissance Man*, written and edited by John W. Beery, with numerous contributions from former students, alumni, colleagues, friends, and family. Dr. Rivard wrote and included a short essay recollection of his father, which charts the central role that he and a several close friends and colleagues played in turning Central Michigan University's music department from a parochial "cow college" training music teachers to a professional conservatory with the most vibrant and successful jazz program in the state, and a brass and composition program to rival the much larger music schools of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. The book will be available on Amazon in January of 2015.

**Dr. Julie Tietz**, professor of psychology, attended the Society for the Teaching of Psychology's Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, October 10-11, 2014.

**Courtney Trautweiler** was hired as the new director of the Blanche Skiff Ross Library. Trautweiler comes to Cottey from the St. Clair County Library in Osceola, Missouri, where she served as the assistant director and technology coordinator since 2010. Trautweiler holds an M.S. in library & information services from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. She also has a B.A. in anthropology from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.



Reminder: beginning with the fall 2015 issue, the *Viewpoint* will be mailed only to those **constituents who contribute \$20 or more to the College each year**. Alumni who graduated two years ago or less will receive the *Viewpoint* regardless of their donor status for two years.

If you're already a donor, you'll keep receiving the *Viewpoint*. If you're not a donor, please consider a gift to your Alma Mater. You'll be educating and empowering other young women, and you'll get a bonus of the *Viewpoint* three times each year.

# Class Notes

## 1930s

Greetings from **Mary Ann (Napier) Crans '36**, the last surviving member of the Class of 1936. Five of our class met at the College for a 70th reunion, and what a great time we had. I am still a Cottey booster! Once a Cottey girl, always a Cottey girl!

## 1950s

**Anita Gravett Tackett '58** lost her husband, Doyle, when he passed away on September 3, 2014, after a short stay in the Oklahoma Heart Hospital. They were in the finishing stages of building a new home in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

## 1960s

**Mary Beth Garrison McAfee '60**, and her husband, Chuck, live in southwestern Colorado in an adobe home on the land that was homesteaded by Chuck's grandparents over 100 years ago. MB officially retired in 2004, however, she remains busy with community causes. In 2006, she helped lead the effort to establish an emergency homeless shelter in Cortez; it has become an important link in the continuum of social care for folks in the area. She is beginning her 10th year as board chairperson for the Bridge. She is active on other fronts in the community including the local community foundation, human relations commission, the land conservancy, and environmental issues. Yoga, road biking, reading, and writing are included each week as "extras" so to speak! She and Chuck celebrated their 52nd anniversary in June 2014. They both enjoy time spent at their cabin on the Dolores River.

For the last three years, **Jenny Meadows '65 [Hazel**

**Willis]** and her husband, Ian, have spent part of every year house/dog sitting in Ian's native country of New Zealand. They have gladly exchanged Texas summers for New Zealand winters, living most of the time in Atawhai, a suburb of Nelson, on the top of the South Island. Jenny has joined Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus, an all-women barbershop chorus and a chapter of Sweet Adelines International. She's also sailing (racing) regularly on Tasman Bay. She and Ian plan to move to Atawhai in the next couple of years.

**Merrilyn (Lyn) Martin Black '66** recently completed six years of service on the State Executive Board of Kentucky State Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood. She is a member of Chapter V, Kentucky.

**Linda Rodgers '68:** Education: From Cottey to Bible College to Graduate School. My sister once said, "Linda is seeing the United States by going to different schools." Which is true. I love the adventure of going to new places and making new friends. I've also been on missions trips to China, Mexico, Alaska, and Palestine/Israel. This past June I went on a ten-day educational trip to Ireland. I had a great time, learned about art therapy, and received 20 CEUs. I have been a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) since 1992. I have had additional training in counseling problem gamblers, working with PTSD victims, including our wounded warriors as an LPC Certified Supervisor. It sounds impressive, but the most impressive are the ones who realize they have a problem and have the courage to seek help and follow through. To me this is the joy of psychological counseling. I do not have a Ph.D., only a master's. Well, two master's: one in learning disabilities the other in Christian counseling with emphasis on subjects required for LPC. I worked for Oklahoma Mental Health and Substances Abuse Services, in an inpatient setting for 21-1/2 years; now work in a private setting



**Melinda Harmon Satterlee '86, Julie Kurtz Messerole '86, Patricia Nolan '87, and Mary DeLong '87** spent four days in San Francisco with Patty Nolan as their host. They stayed at Airbnb and enjoyed time in Sonoma and Napa, the beach, museum, a trip through Chinatown, and a few dinners out. Lots of laughs as well.



# Class Notes



four days a week, instead of five or six, and I love it. I am grateful to Cottey College, where I grew up in academics, socially, culturally, spiritually, and had a great time doing it. Thanks to Dr. Cunningham, who had faith in me, and helped me overcome my shortcomings. What did I like best about Cottey: The sit-down dinners, great food at each meal, making friends, and serenading each other.

## 1970s

**Carolyn (Crowley) Richard '78** retired October 2014 after over 34 years with the National Park Service. Her many experiences included working at Death Valley (CA), Big Bend (TX), Assateague Island (MD), Old Post Office Tower (D.C.), Sequoia/Kings Canyon (CA), Martin Van Buren's home (NY), Abraham Lincoln's home (IL), Carlsbad Caverns (NM), Grand Tetons (WY), and finally at the National Mall in Washington D.C. as the chief of interpretation. She and her husband, Ellis, will continue their travels across the country and oceans, with their first trip being to Pu-Er Sunriver National Park, China, to help with training for staff at a new national park. Carolyn looks forward to hearing from Cottey alumnae! Her email is [sunfish990@gmail.com](mailto:sunfish990@gmail.com).

## 1980s

**Leigh Taylor '80** is currently working in the library at the University of Notre Dame, in addition to teaching theatre part-time in some of the area schools. She's found many of you on Facebook and hopes to connect with more!

**Dr. L Dawn Larsen '81** co-authored and published *American Traveling Tent Theatre, 1900-1940: Rural and Small Town Tent Show Plays Performed in the Midwest (Including Scripts of Popular Tent Theatricals)* with Edwin Mellon Press UK. She is an associate professor of theatre at Francis Marion University.

**Lynne Bodle '54** is proud to report that her daughter, **Lauralyn Bodle '85**, was awarded the 2014 Phoenix Award. Every year, the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission honors five local artists for their outstanding artistic achievements in the Lawrence, Kansas, community. Among her many musical contributions, Lauralyn was awarded a grant from the National Country Dance and Song Society to make Lawrence one of seven stops on its 2015 North American tour. You can read more about Lauralyn's accomplishment here: <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2014/oct/11/2014-phoenix-award-winners-promote-arts-inclusivit> [PHOTO 1]

## 1990s

**Margret Hjalmarson '96** is serving as a program director at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Virginia, this year while on leave from George Mason University.

## 2000s

**Ivy Fitzgerald '06** successfully defended her Ph.D. in Biophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago in October. Ivy is now an instructor at Missouri State University.

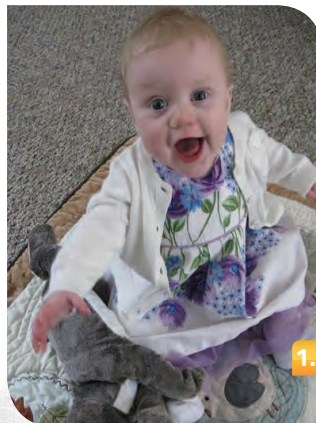
# Births

## 1990s

**Adria van den Berg '99**, along with husband, Nathan, welcomed daughter Blix Clara van den Berg into the world through a water birth at home in Newport News, Virginia, on October 2, 2013. The family now resides in Brunswick, Maine. **[PHOTO 1]**

## 2000s

**Aimee Starlin Meyer '02**, husband Jesse, and big brother Sutton welcomed baby sister, Jovy Randel on October 7, 2014. Miss Jovy will be Cottey Class of 2037! **[PHOTO 2]**



**Nichole (Jackson) George '04** and husband Clay welcomed daughter Olivia Marie George on February 24, 2014. She was 8 pounds, 6 ounces and 22 inches long. She is Nichole's first baby and is the most amazing thing she's ever seen! **[PHOTO 3]**

# Obituaries

**Betty Jean Eddlemon Edwards '43** passed away December 18, 2014, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. From 1968-1986, Betty worked as a Cottey librarian in the Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library. Her obituary can be found online at <http://www.nevadadailymail.com/story/2149139.html>

**Virginia Baum '49** passed away August 20, 2014, in Loveland, Colorado. Her obituary is available online at: <http://www.mobridgetribune.com/?p=8270>

**Donna Beth Hudson Hammond '54** passed away September 17, 2014. Her obituary can be found at [http://www.torringtontelegam.com/v2\\_news\\_articles.php?heading=0&page=37&story\\_id=15558](http://www.torringtontelegam.com/v2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=37&story_id=15558)

**Leyla Lynn Beyaz '79** passed away peacefully on December 2, 2014, at her home in Renton, Washington, after a five-year battle with ovarian cancer. Her obituary is available online at <http://www.tributes.com/obituary/show/Leyla-Lynn-Beyaz-101959074>

The College was notified of the deaths of the following alumnae:

Phoebe Lambertz '27  
Helen Mildred Rosendahl Knospe King '39  
Marjory Smith '39  
Mary Emery '39  
Doris Jeanette Couch Clark '39  
Ferne Schultzt '39  
Dorothy Banbury '39  
Irma Marguerite Beals Nyby '39  
Ruth Nastelin '40  
Rosalee Beeny Pomerantz '40  
Margaret Larson '40  
Hollis Haney '40  
Mildred Elizabeth Stotts Petree '40  
Bessie Jane Buckley Brice '41  
Evelyn West '42  
Mary Jean West '43  
Eva Marie Bolin Morgan '44  
Charlotte Jeanne Gurley Barnett '44  
Emma Orth '45  
Elizabeth "Betty" Ruth Heinemann '46  
Esther Van Soelen '47  
Nina Helen Engel Stewart '47  
June Manning '47

Alice Hayden '47  
Barbara Allen '48  
Suzanne Royer '48  
Gertrud "Trudy" Glauner '49  
Joyce Lucretia Ballard '49  
Marilyn June Fikejs '50  
Marge Hief '51  
Shirley A. VanEschen '51  
Lois Westfall '52  
Vernita Hollander '52  
Marilyn Bassett '53  
Alice Connors Morse '53  
Beverly Glace Wilhelm '53  
Janet Ellen Bennett '53  
Marjorie Homza '53  
Shirley von Forell '54  
Dorothy Allen Halliday '54  
Nancy Kaye Kelly Hurt '54  
Judith Marie McCulloh '54  
Mary Gifford '54  
Suzi Schnier '55  
Cynthia "Cyndie" Alley Bainter '55  
Katherine "Kay" Smith '59  
Kathleen "Kathy" Espinoza '67  
Judith Susan Caudle Strada '68  
Mary Mayne '70



# Weddings

## 1990s

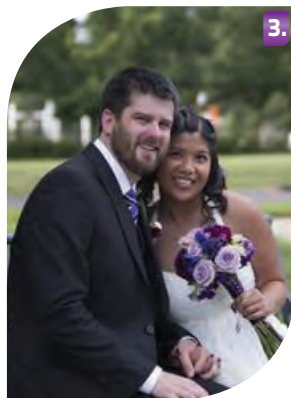
**Krissy Beoka '92**, married Tom Horrace at Tamarack Resort in Donnelly, Idaho, in a forest and fishing-themed wedding on October 4, 2014. The location was selected because that is where they fell in love in 2013. Krissy was surrounded by Cottey sisters from around the country as she said "I do." Classmate and best friend of the bride, **Britt Drewes-Conley**, Class of 1992, was the Matron of Honor. At the reception the Cottey alumnae introduced Tom to Cottey traditions by surrounding him and singing skid-a-ma-rink. Krissy and Tom live in Boise, Idaho. **[PHOTO 1]**

**Mary Ann Hamre '97** married Dustin Sult on November 1, 2014. Mary Ann received her master's degree from San Diego State University in educational technology and is a technical literacy teacher at Anamosa Middle School. **Hannah (Marling) Byrne '97** is second from the left. **[PHOTO 2]**

## 2000s

**Charmaine Robledo '02** married Steven McAbee on August 24, 2014, in Denver, Colorado. The ceremony was held at Alamo Placita Park and the reception was at Artwork Network gallery. Nebraska suitemate **Autumn Isaacs-Wardyn '02** was one of Charmaine's bridesmaids and did her hair; and **Allison Standen Teiber '02** arranged all the wedding party flowers through her business, Green Cascade Floral Design. **Jani Smith '88** designed the save-the-dates, invitations, and wedding guest poster. Charmaine and Steven live in south Denver where they enjoy Geeks Who Drink and attending the annual Comic-Con. Charmaine works as director of communications for the Mountain Sky Area of the United Methodist Church and Steven started a new position at Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield in October. **[PHOTO 3]**

On September 27, 2014, **Elizabeth (Izzy) Meckfessel '02** married Justin Wregglesworth at



The Weingarten in Belleville, Illinois. In attendance were New Mexico suitemates **Caroline Fitzgerald Seavey '01**, **Sarah Wilson Person '01**, **Megan Davis '01**, and **Lauren Young '02**. Izzy and Justin met on eHarmony in 2009, while Justin was stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. This past June, Justin got orders to Misawa, Japan, and they moved there this November. They are both excited to start this new journey of their lives together! **[PHOTO 4]**



**Katie Kecso Blaede '11** married Cassidy James Blaede, her boyfriend of six years, on May 31, 2014, in St. Charles, Iowa. **Rosemary Leach '12** and **Emma McKirdy '12** were bridesmaids in the wedding; **Felicia Figgins Brockmann '12** also attended the ceremony. Cass and Katie moved to Englewood, Colorado, after the wedding. **[PHOTO 5]**

**Jennifer Leverette** (A.A. '11, B.A. '13) was married to John Cruwell on July 19, 2014, at Radio Springs Park in Nevada, Missouri. Several alumnae and Cottey faculty members were present, including Nancy Kerbs, Dr. Trisha Stubblefield, **Taylor Woods '14**, **Sarah Chase '13**, **Tabitha Andujar-Bryson '12**, **Lacey Carpenter '13**, **Devin Napoli '13**, and **Lexi Miles '12**. Sarah Chase '13 made the wedding cake.

## Giving Update

To secure a solid foundation following the successful comprehensive campaign, Cottey will focus on increasing endowed funds and building unrestricted annual support. The College remains truly grateful for the continued support of all alumnae, faculty, staff, friends, P.E.O.s, chapters, corporations, and foundations. We wish to specially recognize the following gifts made between October 1, 2014, to January 18, 2015.

### Gifts or Pledges of \$5,000 or more

**Charlette Gallagher Allred**—Dublin, OH

**Janet L. Brown '71**—Maitland, FL

**Joseph P. Brown**—Kennewick, WA

**A. Scott Bushey**—Sarasota, FL

**Pauline Campbell Carlisle Estate**  
—Bangor, ME

**Ann E. Davidson**—Columbus, OH

**Catherine M. Denton**—Medford, NJ

**Charles and Margaret Dunagan**  
—Houston, TX

**Fink Foundation**—Fort Wayne, IN

**Ilse Gebhard '60**—Kalamazoo, MI

**Hannah Foundation**—San Antonio, TX

**Joseph Head Estate**—Springfield, MO

**Shirley Bush '61 & Barnett C. Helzberg, Jr.**—Shawnee Mission, KS

**Judy Morhart Hudson '60**—Santa Rosa, CA

**Dyke & Becky Kiel**—Nevada, MO

**WW & HJ Klos Trust**—Peoria, AZ

**Susan Cochran Krieg**—Tucson, AZ

**Marie Larew Charitable Remainder Unitrust**—Springfield, MO

**The Marsh Family Foundation**  
—Pennington, NJ

**Barbara J. Marshall**—Estes Park, CO

**Paul & Grace Martinez, Jr.**  
—Camarillo, CA

**Elizabeth S. McDowell Estate**  
—Winston Salem, NC

**Paul E. & Jonalee Y. McLaughlin**  
—Mission Woods, KS

**Nancy Jane Morris '60**  
—Saratoga Springs, NY

**P.E.O. Foundation**—Des Moines, IA

**P.E.O. International Chapter**  
—Des Moines, IA

**Carol L. Ryberg**—New Ulm, MN

**Diane Endicott Sampson '58**—Salina, KS

**Christine Fuller Scheuneman '70**  
—Corona Del Mar, CA

**Andrea Wade**—Apalachin, NY

**Alvina Walker Warner '56**  
—Kirkwood, MO

**Sylvester & Faurot T. Weller Estate**  
—Wilmington, DE

**Thomas D. White**—San Antonio, TX

**Ronald R. & Linda L. Williams**  
—Valley Center, KS

**Mildred Willock Trust**—Kansas City, MO

**Seymour & Reta Holt**—Indianapolis, IN

## Dr. Jann Rudd Weitzel Named 12th President

The Cottey College Board of Trustees and the Presidential Search Committee are pleased to announce the appointment of Cottey's twelfth president, Dr. Jann Rudd Weitzel. Dr. Weitzel replaces the previous president-designate, Dr. Doris Tegart, who resigned for personal reasons.

Dr. Weitzel comes to Cottey from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, where she has served as provost. During her tenure, Dr. Weitzel oversaw the development of new academic programs, including the first 12 degree programs for a new full-service campus in Belleville, Illinois; a nursing and health sciences center in St. Charles, Missouri; and a distance learning center that now of-



fers ten online degrees and a multitude of individual online courses.

"Cottey is incredibly fortunate to have had two outstanding candidates to replace the retiring Dr. Judy Rogers," said Janet Brown, chairman of the board of trustees. "While the board is disappointed that Dr. Tegart had to resign as president-designate due to unforeseen personal circumstances, we are so pleased to have Dr. Weitzel to assume

the presidency of this outstanding college."

Dr. Tegart, in a letter to the Cottey College Board of Trustees, wrote: "Please know and convey to the other Board of Trustee members that this is not a reflection on Cottey College, the professional situation, or any component of the work. I am heart-broken that I cannot fulfill this dream job at Cottey."

Dr. Weitzel understands the unique and special qualities of a women's institution. Her current university was a women's-only college for over 140 years and was founded by a pioneering 19th century female educator. Dr. Weitzel has had the opportunity to witness firsthand the deep, durable relationships

that women develop with their peers, their professors, their areas of study, and their alma mater when they attend a women-only institution.

"I look forward to serving as the ambassador for Cottey College, sharing widely its history, its traditions, and its amazing programs," said Dr. Weitzel. "As a 24-year member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, I know the value of both Cottey College and women's education. I am an enthusiastic supporter of women's leadership programs, and Cottey offers some of the best opportunities for women to learn to become leaders. I cannot wait to participate in the life of this campus."



# Faculty Announce Retirements



**Ashmore**

It is with gratitude and respect that we announce the retirement plans of **Mr. Michel Ashmore**, associate professor of music. Mr. Ashmore joined the faculty at Cottey in 1972. Throughout his career, Mr. Ashmore has given piano recitals at Cottey and at various venues in the region, including with the Northland Symphony in Kansas City. He has served as coordinator of the music department, chair of the Fine Arts Division, on the Assessment Committee, the Advising Committee and a number of other committees, including multiple search committees and the Faculty Senate. He contributed to several NASM re-accreditation reviews. Mr. Ashmore will leave Cottey at the conclusion of this current academic year and will be truly missed. We are grateful for his years of dedicated service.

It is with appreciation and high regard that we also announce the retirement plans of **Dr. Bruce Holman**, professor of art. Dr. Holman joined the faculty at Cottey in 1983. In 1987 he was selected by the faculty



**Holman**

as the first Blanche Hinman Dow Honored Speaker. He has received a number of Corley awards, presented many exhibitions in the Cottey P.E.O. Foundation Gallery, and served on numerous committees including the Curriculum Committee, Personnel Committee, and Library Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Holman also made contributions beyond Cottey, most notably he was directly involved in creating over 40 films and numerous exhibitions in regional galleries such as the Spiva Art Center in Joplin, and Cameron College in Lawton, Oklahoma. Dr. Holman will leave Cottey at the conclusion of this current academic year and will be truly missed. We are grateful for his years of dedicated service.

It is with appreciation and high regard that we announce the retirement plans of **Dr. Mark Pearson**, professor of foreign languages and film studies. Dr. Pearson joined the faculty at Cottey in 1991. Dr. Pearson was the first recipient of the Class of 1960 Excellence in



**Pearson**

Teaching Award in May 2010. This award recognizes his commendable teaching abilities and support of students in his courses. While at Cottey Dr. Pearson has taught a variety of courses, including German, Film Studies, and Latin in response to student interest and to contribute to an enriched curriculum at the College. Dr. Pearson has a number of scholarly publications in edited volumes and journals such as *Amsterdamer Beiträge zur älteren Germanistik* and *Colloquia Germanica*. He has served as chair of the Humanities Division, the Curriculum Committee, and the Rank and Tenure Committee, and he is on the International Travel Advisory Board and the Curriculum Review Sub-Committee. As a member of the Dean's Council, he contributed to the comprehensive revision of the Faculty Handbook and frequently volunteered his help in assisting the College. Dr. Pearson will leave Cottey at the conclusion of this current academic year and will be truly missed. We are grateful for his years of dedicated service.

## Past Leaders, from page 9

tion by The Higher Learning Commission.

Cottey's eleventh president, Judy Robinson Rogers, Ph.D., has served as president since 2004. Dr. Rogers' dedication to educating women to be leaders led to the development of the Leadership, Experiences,

Opportunity program and the Serenbetz Institute for Women's Leadership, Social Responsibility and Global Awareness. Dr. Rogers also led the most significant academic transformation in Cottey history, the granting of baccalaureate degrees.

Vision, leadership, and dedi-

cation are just a few of the qualities shared by the 11 leaders who guided Cottey through its first 130 years. As the College prepares to welcome its 12th president, thousands of women are grateful to them for leading the way to excellence in education.

Inquiries and information should be addressed to:

Office of Public Information  
Cottery College  
1000 W. Austin  
Nevada, MO 64772

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## The Stockard Society

**W**ant to get the most value from your nest egg, protect your heirs from heavy taxes, and make a mark at your institution? Consider leaving a portion of your retirement plan assets to Cottery College.

### How It Works

If you die with retirement plan assets in your estate, those assets are subject to income taxes. This can reduce the amount that normally would be passed to heirs by up to 39.6 percent. In contrast, as a nonprofit organization, we are tax-exempt and eligible to receive the full

amount and bypass any federal taxes. Income taxes can be eliminated or reduced through a carefully planned charitable gift. Consider these gift options:

- Designate Cottery College as the primary beneficiary for a percentage (1 to 100 percent) of your retirement plan assets.
- Designate a specific amount to be paid to us before the remainder is divided among family beneficiaries.
- Make us the contingent beneficiary to receive the balance only if your loved one, as primary beneficiary, doesn't survive you.

To implement your wishes, simply advise your plan administrator of your decision and sign whatever forms are required. For more information, contact Judyth Wier, vice president for institutional advancement, 417-667-8181 ext. 2120 [jwier@cottery.edu](mailto:jwier@cottery.edu) [www.cottery.edu/plannedgift](http://www.cottery.edu/plannedgift)

### *Did you know?*

*If your children are the beneficiaries of your IRAs and other retirement plans, federal income taxes may erode up to 39.6 percent of the amount they receive.*